

CA 0556165
MAY 1958

CA-051958

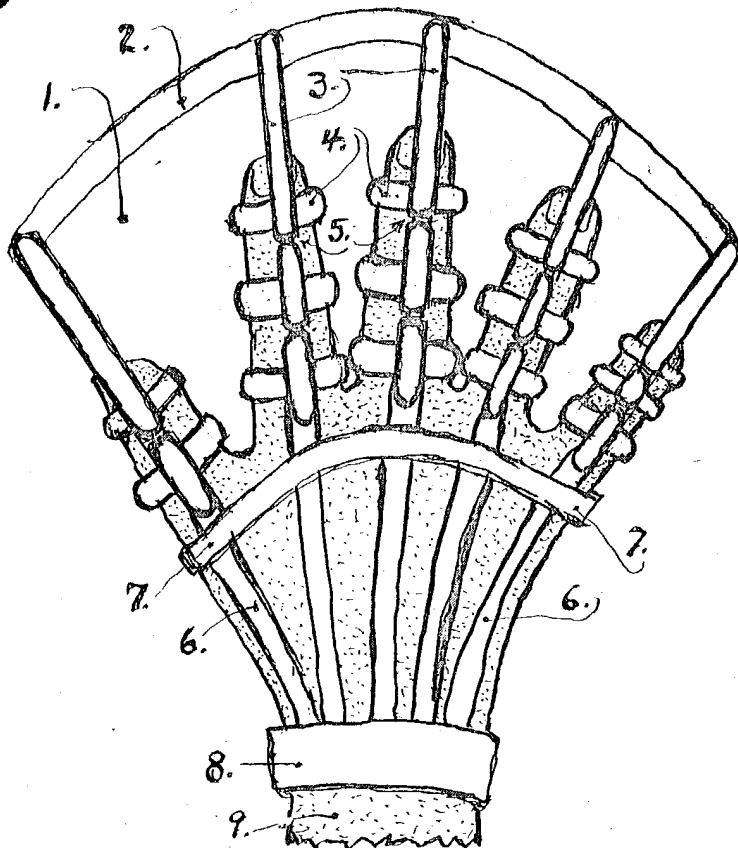


FIG. 1.

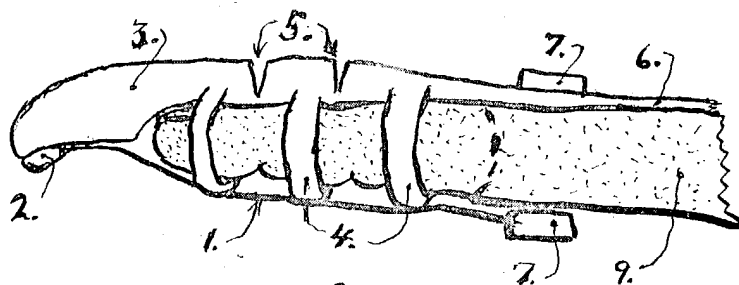


FIG. 2.

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Patent No. 556,165

Web-Like Covering for the Hands of Swimmers

John Campbell, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Application August 11, 1955, Serial No. 691,107
2 Claims

This invention is a method of putting a covering to act as a web between the fingers of us humans while in swimming.

Without outside help, the human hand has to be cupped when drawn through the water to propel the body along while swimming. In this form it only uses a very small part of the strength of the swimmer that is available, the rest being wasted by just thrashing the arms through the water.

A web like covering that allows the swimmers to open their fingers wide, and so grab several times as much water as a cupped hand can for propelling themselves along is the object of this invention.

In describing my invention I refer to the enclosed drawings which illustrate embodiments of the invention.

Fig. 1. Shows a hand stretched wide open, equipped with a web.

Fig. 2. Shows the side view of one finger within the rings holding the web.

In both Figures the numbered parts represent the same.

1 Is the flexible sheet that forms the web or covering between the fingers.

2 Is the hem or bracing strap along the outer edge of the web.

3 Are the semi-rigid supports behind and extending past the fingers.

4 Are the open rings to fit over the fingers, fastened to the supports mentioned as 3.

5 Are the hinged sections of the support 3 which allow it to fold only one way.

6 Are straps that after holding parts 3 and 4 in place, continue along back of the hand, first being all fastened to a strap around the whole hand at the base of the fingers, and then to an adjustable strap around the wrist.

7 The strap around the hand near the base of the fingers, being fastened to the base of the web, and holding straps 6 in place.

8 The adjustable strap around the wrist, which may be opened and closed.

9 A human hand.

The sheet material forming the web 1 may be either plastic film, rubber, or close woven cloth. Its sides are fastened to the supports 3 on the thumb and little finger, straps 2 and 7 and elsewhere as desired. The outer edge may be folded over to form an air tight tube, and filled with a little air, will keep the whole web floating if dropped into the water. The supports 3 behind each finger are hinged at 5 so that they may only bend one way at each joint of the fingers. This allows the hand to be closed into a fist like shape when it is being thrust forward through the water. Yet which can be instantly opened wide by stretching apart the fingers. Providing a better grip in the water for propelling the swimmer along. The fasteners on the strap 8 are adjustable, so that it will fit different size wrists snugly.

The rings 4 need only fit around the fingers loosely, as they are held in place by the straps 6 which may be part of supports 3. All these are held in place by straps 7 and 8. The latter fitting the wrist firmly, holds all the others in place.

These web like coverings for swimmers hands may be carried when not in use on a ring, that fastens like a safety pin to the bathing suit of the swimmer.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A covering for the human hand to be worn when swimming so that when the fingers are opened and held apart, this covering will act as a web, stopping all water from passing between the fingers, comprising the web and supports on the back of the fingers, extending out beyond them so as to increase the area of water the web covers, said supports being hinged behind each joint of a finger so that they may fold only one way, that of the finger, allowing the fingers to be closed into a fist like shape, three transverse straps of heavier material than the web, joining all the supports back of the fingers together, two of said straps also bracing the top and bottom edges of the web, the third strap which can be opened and closed encircling the wrist firmly, and a series of loosely fitting rings that encircle each finger separately, being fastened to the supports back of the fingers to hold the web in place.

2. A web like covering for the human hand to be worn when swimming as described in Claim 1 that has some air trapped in a hem around the edge of the web so as to make it floatable.